GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2382
ANSWERED ON:03.12.2007
LOSSES TO COTTON CROPS
Ramadass Prof. M

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the standing cotton crop has been damaged in many States and the farmers have suffered huge losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the loss suffered, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any survey in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to provide financial assistance to the affected States;

(f) if so, details thereof, State-wise; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. As per information received from the various cotton growing states, the standing cotton crop has been damaged in four States. Cotton crop was damaged to some extent in Punjab due to mealy bug, tobacco caterpillar coupled with high temperature and long dry spell, while in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra, the cotton crop was damaged due to heavy rains/floods during Kharif season.

Areas of cotton crop affected was 33603 hectare in Maharashtra, 2952 hectare in Andhra Pradesh, 10500 hectare in Punjab and 34485 hectare in Karnataka. The losses were estimated above 50% in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, while in Punjab, 5-7% loss in yield was estimated.

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. The losses have been estimated by State Governments.

(e) & (f): The financial assistance to the affected farmers in Andhara Pradesh has been provided as per norms of Natural Calamity Fund Scheme but no assistance has been given in Punjab due to negligible loss to cotton crop. The financial assistance to the farmers in Maharashtra and Karnataka is to be given by the Governments as per norms of assistance.

(g): Question does not arise.